

**FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
held at the  
Laurence Pettingill Hall, Ellis Elementary School  
432 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044  
5 March 2005 - Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Fremont School Board District Clerk Kathi Picone called the Meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. SAU #14 Legal Counsel Gordan Graham was introduced and called to the podium.

Legal Counsel Gordon Graham stated that there was a vacancy for School District Moderator. He reviewed RSA 671:33. A new School District Moderator needed to be appointed for the meeting.

School District Clerk Kathi Picone asked for nominations. Police Chief Neil Janvrin nominated Ann Marie Scribner. Linda Zukas seconded the nomination.

School District Clerk Kathi Picone asked the voting body all in favor of Ann Marie Scribner being appointed School District Moderator say aye. Opposed? Ann Marie Scribner was appointed Fremont School District Moderator.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all at the meeting. There was a moment of silence for our troops in Iraq. Lisa Begley was welcomed home after serving in Iraq for 18 months.

**Introduction of the Board and Panel:** Moderator Scribner introduced SAU #14 Legal Counsel Gordon Graham, SAU #14 Superintendent Barbara Munsey, SAU #14 Business Administrator Martha Williamson, School Board Chairman Joe Dreyer, Member Christine Kenneway, Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham, Member Marion Guidiboni, Member Lisa Begley, and School Board District Clerk Kathi Picone.

**Meeting Rules:** Moderator Scribner went over the rules of the meeting.

1. You must be a registered voter with the town of Fremont.
2. The meeting is to be fair and everyone is to be treated equally.
3. All remarks are to be made through the Moderator.
4. If you wish to speak, raise your hand and the Moderator will recognize you. Go to the microphone and state your name for the School District Clerk and ask your question.
5. If you would like to speak, but you have already spoken, let other people with questions have an opportunity for a first question.
6. There is to be no name calling or use of profanity.
7. You are allowed 4 minutes to speak.
8. If there is an amendment on the floor, we will resolve it before we entertain another amendment.

Moderator Scribner reviewed Restriction of Reconsideration of an article.

Moderator Scribner stated that there was report to be made by the Charter Commission. Linda Zukas referred people to page 210 of the town report and read the report.

Representative Bob Dodge asked if voting for the charter would take place at the ballot on Tuesday. Linda Zukas stated yes.

***To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Fremont, New Hampshire qualified to vote in District affairs:***

***You are hereby notified to meet at the Laurence Pettengill Hall, Ellis School, in said District on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2005, at five o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subjects and to hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees or officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.***

***ARTICLE 1. To see if the District will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Fremont School Board and the Ellis School Support Staff AFT Local #6223, NHFT, AFT-CIO, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:***

<b><i>School Year</i></b>	<b><i>Estimated Increase</i></b>
<b><i>2005-2006</i></b>	<b><i>\$27,509</i></b>
<b><i>2006-2007</i></b>	<b><i>31, 157</i></b>
<b><i>2007-2008</i></b>	<b><i>32,770</i></b>

***and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Nine Dollars (\$27, 509) for the 2005-2006 school year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. (Majority vote required)***

Member Chris Kenneway made a motion to move the article and Member Peg Pinkham seconded.

Member Kenneway directed the body to page 4 in the handouts. It is a 3-year agreement for employees paid on an hourly basis.

Citizen Linda Tagney asked for clarification on the number of paraprofessionals employed at the school. Member Kenneway stated that there are 30 support staff employees with 22 of them being paraprofessionals.

**With there being no further questions, Moderator Scribner asked the voting body all in favor of Article 1 indicate by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Article 1 passed by Majority vote.**

***ARTICLE 2. To see if the School District will vote to expand the existing telephone system and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000) for this purpose, with such amount to be funded from the year end undesignated fund balance available on July 1. (Majority vote required)***

Chairman Dreyer made a motion to move Article 2. Member Kenneway seconded.

Chairman Dreyer referred the body to page 5 of the handouts. The phone system would allow every classroom in the school to have a phone thus making the school safer. Phones allow classrooms to communicate with each other and access to voice mail and summons emergency services to the classroom if needed.

**Moderator Scribner asked the voting body all in favor of Article 2 signify by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Article 2 passed by Majority vote.**

***ARTICLE 3. To see if the School District will vote to purchase the two modulars presently located at Ellis School and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Six Thousand and Two Hundred Dollars (\$106,200) for this purpose with such amount to be funded from the year end undesignated fund balance available July 1. (Majority vote required)***

Chairman Dreyer moved Article 3. Member Pinkham seconded.

Chairman Dreyer addressed the voting body. The 10 year plan for the school included keeping 1 modular. However, the special education staff located in Epping at SAU #14 is being moved back to the Ellis School. These 4 employees need office space, thus the request to purchase the other modular.

Representative Dodge asked how much is in the undesignated fund balance?

Business Manager Martha Williamson stated that there is \$250,000 in the undesignated fund balance. There is also \$125,000 left over from the roofing project at Ellis. There will be \$250,000 returned to the town. There would be enough to cover the cost of the modular.

**Moderator Scribner asked the voting body all those in favor of Article 3 signify by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Article 3 passed by Majority vote.**

***ARTICLE 4. To see what the sum of money the District will raise and appropriate for the support of the schools, for the payment of salaries for school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Majority vote required)***

	<i><b>Budget Committee Recommended</b></i>	<i><b>School Board Recommended</b></i>
<i><b>1100 Regular Education</b></i>	<i><b>\$3,697,522</b></i>	<i><b>\$3,713,522</b></i>
<i><b>1200 Special Education</b></i>	<i><b>1,426,822</b></i>	<i><b>1,426,822</b></i>
<i><b>1300 Vocational Education</b></i>	<i><b>0</b></i>	<i><b>0</b></i>
<i><b>1400 Other Programs</b></i>	<i><b>23, 931</b></i>	<i><b>23, 931</b></i>
<i><b>2110 Attendance</b></i>	<i><b>0</b></i>	<i><b>0</b></i>
<i><b>2120 Guidance</b></i>	<i><b>61, 318</b></i>	<i><b>61, 318</b></i>
<i><b>2130 Health</b></i>	<i><b>34, 370</b></i>	<i><b>34, 370</b></i>
<i><b>2140 Psychological</b></i>	<i><b>63,802</b></i>	<i><b>63,802</b></i>
<i><b>2150 Speech and Audiology</b></i>	<i><b>112,545</b></i>	<i><b>112,545</b></i>
<i><b>2160 Physical and Occupational</b></i>	<i><b>121,722</b></i>	<i><b>121,722</b></i>
<i><b>2210 Improvement of Instruction</b></i>	<i><b>53,200</b></i>	<i><b>53,200</b></i>
<i><b>2220 Educational Media</b></i>	<i><b>169,897</b></i>	<i><b>169,897</b></i>
<i><b>2310 School Board</b></i>	<i><b>58,449</b></i>	<i><b>58,449</b></i>
<i><b>2320 Offices of Superintendent</b></i>	<i><b>157,306</b></i>	<i><b>157,306</b></i>
<i><b>2330 Special Ed. Admin.</b></i>	<i><b>113,840</b></i>	<i><b>113,840</b></i>
<i><b>2400 School Administration</b></i>	<i><b>243,138</b></i>	<i><b>243,138</b></i>
<i><b>2600 Operation of Plant</b></i>	<i><b>303,605</b></i>	<i><b>303,605</b></i>
<i><b>2700 Student Transportation</b></i>	<i><b>403,945</b></i>	<i><b>418,945</b></i>
<i><b>2900 Support Benefits</b></i>	<i><b>185,041</b></i>	<i><b>188,084</b></i>
<i><b>4000 Facilities</b></i>	<i><b>3,151</b></i>	<i><b>40,081</b></i>
<i><b>5100 Debt Service</b></i>	<i><b>389,222</b></i>	<i><b>389,222</b></i>
<i><b>3100 Food Service</b></i>	<i><b>88,249</b></i>	<i><b>88,249</b></i>
<i><b>Total Appropriation</b></i>	<i><b>\$7,711,075</b></i>	<i><b>\$7,853,074</b></i>

***(\$7,853,074 Recommended by the Fremont School Board)***  
***(\$7,711,075 Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee)***

Member Pinkham moved Article 4 for \$7,853,074. Member Kenneway seconded. Because Article 3 passed, Member Pinkham motioned to amend Article 4 and the amount recommended by the Fremont School Board to \$7,816,144. Member Kenneway seconded the motion.

Representative Dodge referred to Item 4000 on page two. He stated that the Budget Committee recommended \$3,151 and the School Board recommended \$40,081. He asked if a Budget Committee representative could discuss the difference in the figures.

Member Pinkham asked the voting body to refer to an orange page which illustrates the Budget Committee recommended cuts. Most of the increases were due to uncontrollable costs like contractual agreements. The major difference is a position for a curriculum coordinator at Ellis School.

Budget Committee Member Mark Woodman stated that the significant difference was in the area of curriculum expenses. The Budget Committee would like the current staff to manage curriculum.

Budget Committee Member Andy Kohlhoffer stated that the school could hire a curriculum coordinator but they would need to find the money in some other area of the budget. He also stated that he did want the best education possible for Fremont students but that it needed to be balanced with what Fremont residents can afford in tax increases.

Member Begley came forward and described what the responsibilities of a curriculum coordinator are and how valuable they are in working with teachers to improve instruction,

Superintendent Barbara Munsey introduced Principal Kelli Killen. The administrative structure at Ellis was realigned. A 2/3 curriculum coordinator is already on staff but a full-time director is needed to meet the 10-year plan in place. The school currently has 2 reading specialists and that will be reduced to 1 reading specialist next year. Therefore, impacting the budget in the negative. Superintendent Munsey also went over the orange sheet covering the reasons we need a curriculum coordinator.

Representative Dodge stated he is on the finance committee at the state house. He stated that , has monies available that the school district should apply for. Also, the problem with testing scores at the school is that the special education students are tested at the same level as the regular education children. This needs to be changed.

Representative Itse asked for clarification in funding. Does the School Board recommend the reduction of \$90,000?

Superintendent Munsey stated that Assistant Principal position was changed and 2 paraprofessional positions eliminated, plus the reduction of 1 reading specialist is reflected in the new budget.

Citizen Steve Kohlhoffer stated that having a standard with all the teachers is really important to having everyone pointed in the same direction.

Budget Committee Member Mike Miller stated that the committee is trying to keep things within the school streamlined and work with the existing staff. The Budget Committee is trying to keep the bottom line as low as possible.

Representative Dodge asked if Epping has increased the tuition.

Budget Committee Member Mike Miller stated that it has increased.

Member Pinkham stated that Sanborn's tuition will actually be lower.

Citizen Kathy Sonia stated that improvement in curriculum is overdue and she thanked the school board for its desire to improve it.

**Moderator Scribner asked all to vote on the first amendment by Member Pinkham to a budget figure of \$7,816, 144.00. All in favor to amend the school board appropriations for the budget signify by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Article 4 passed with a Majority vote.**

Representative Dodge asked for a green card vote.

**Moderator Scribner stated that a green card vote would be taken. All in favor of the amendment to \$7,816, 144.00 signfiy by saying aye and lifting your green card. Opposed?**

**Article 4 passed with a Majority vote.**

Budget Committee Member Andy Kohlhoffer made a motion to amend Article 4 to the Budget Committee recommendation of \$7,711, 075.00. Seconded by Citizen Ann Belliveau.

Citizen Roy stated that in a 3-year cycle we have had major increases while our revenues are decreasing and that he supports the Budget Committee recommendation.

Citizen Lee asked if the \$36,000 amount was changed because we didn't need to rent a modular anymore. She received a yes reply.

Citizen Linda Zukas asked for discussion on school enrollment and increases due to that.

Budget Committee Member Mike Miller also asked the school board to address this issue.

Superintendent Munsey discussed the enrollment issues and the desire to keep classes at 20 to 25 students per class.

Citizen Yvonne Ouellette asked for clarification on the budget number.

Member Pinkham stated that you first have to ask for approval of the amendment before the number is changed.

Budget Committee Member Andy Kohlhoffer asked if \$250,000 is being returned to the town from the previous school budget, is the school board budget too high?

Member Lisa Begley stated that the school board does not consider the budget an open pocketbook. For example, one change in a special education student placement can significantly alter the budget in the positive or negative.

Citizen Theresa Blades gave clarification as to the current Ellis School enrollment. There are 488 students enrolled at the school.

Member Pinkham addressed the budget issue stating that the school board does its very best to forecast student placements. The reason there was money to return to the town was because there was a change in placement for a special education student. Because we have such a strong special education department, we were able to bring a child back to the school thus \$125,000 was saved in an outside placement.

Citizen Linda Zukas asked the question to be moved.

Representative Dodge stated that the budget doesn't go into effect until July 1 so we don't know what the surplus will be at the time the district meeting takes place.

Superintendent Munsey also briefly discussed the surplus in the budget.

Citizen Ann Belliveau seconded the motion to move the question.

**Moderator Scribner asked the voting body all those in favor to amend Article 4 to the amount of \$7,711,075.00 signify by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Moderator Scribner asked that a green card vote be taken. All those in favor to amend Article 4 to the amount of \$7,711,075.00 signify by saying aye and lifting your green card. Opposed?**

**The amendment to Article 4 was defeated.**

**Moderator Scribner stated that we were now going back to the original amount of Article 4 for \$7,816,144 and asked for discussion.**

Selectmen Gene Cordes called the question to a vote and was seconded by Member Lisa Begley.

Before the vote was taken. Moderator Scribner allowed Budget Committee Member Andy Kohlhoffer to speak.

Budget Committee Member Andy Kohlhoffer stated that there has been a \$700,000 increase in the teacher's budget with the teacher's union telling the School Board what type of health insurance they want.

Chairman Joe Dreyer stated that union doesn't tell the School Board what insurance they want and that in fact they have changed the plan for new teachers and have requested teacher's to pay a portion of the insurance. Insurance costs are just getting higher and higher.

**Moderator Scribner asked the voting body to take a green card count. All those in favor of the School Board budget amount of \$7,816,144.00 signify by saying aye and raising your green cards. Opposed?**

**Article 4 passed with a Majority vote.**

***ARTICLE 5. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to create a planning committee to study the feasibility of withdrawal from School Administrative Unit No. 14 and the advisability of establishing a School Administrative Unit in accordance with RSA Chapter 194-C. The plan is subject to school district approval. (Majority vote required)***

A motion was made by Member Kenneway to move Article 5 and was seconded by Chairman Dreyer.

Member Kenneway directed the voting body to page 10 in the handouts.

Representative Dodge stated that this would compare the costs of our own SAU compared to the Epping SAU.

A Fremont citizen asked for the question to be called. Selectmen Gene Cordes seconded.

**Moderator Scribner asked all those in favor of Article 5 signify by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Article 5 passed by Majority vote.**

***ARTICLE 6. Shall the Fremont School District vote to discontinue the printing of vendor and salary history in the annual district report? (Majority vote required)***

Chairman Dreyer made a motion to move Article 6 and Member Pinkham seconded.

Member Pinkham referred the voting body to page 11 in the handouts. She stated that compiling the information for the annual district report takes a significant amount of time and will save the district between \$500.00 and \$750.00 per year if we stop printing this information.

Citizen Joe Delahunty stated that the citizens need to see the information and Citizen Matthew Thomas stated that it helps the citizens see the breakdown of expenses for the town.

**Moderator Scribner asked the voting body all those in favor of removing the vendor and salary history from the annual district report, signify by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Article 6 was defeated by Majority vote.**

Police Chief Neil Janvrin made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 1 to Articles 4. Member Marion Guidiboni seconded.

**Moderator Scribner asked all those in favor of restricting reconsideration to Articles 1 to Articles 4 signify by saying aye. Opposed?**

**Articles 1 to Articles 4 were restricted from reconsideration.**

***ARTICLE 7. Shall the Fremont School District approve the new charter recommended by the Charter Commission (the Charter will preserve the traditional School District Meeting but require that future bond issues and notes of the School District be voted on by official ballot voting following the procedures in official ballot voting communities (SB2)? (Majority vote required)***



**Warrant Article No. 7 will be voted by ballot on Election Day, March 8, 2005.**

Representative Dodge stated that if SBII passes, will this make Article 7 moot?

Member Guidiboni stated that the charter is only for the school district meetings, not the town meetings.

Citizen Karamourtopoulos asked if Charter Members would speak about the issue.

Member Guidiboni stated that the charter allows for more flexibility and we can decide whether we want a 3/5 or 2/3 majority. However, she does not recommend it nor does she support SBII. The process makes voting confusing and requires people to come to a deliberative session in which a very small majority of people can change the budget.

Citizen Miller asked if the charter members were for or against the charter?

The majority of the charter members were for the charter but the school board is against the charter.

Chairman Dreyer also clarified that the people on the charter commission were voted in by the people of Fremont.

Representative Itse asked for an explanation of the charter and he was directed to the town report, page 211.

Citizen Yvonne Ouellette asked members of the charter commission to discuss SBII and why of the 50 towns in NH that have adopted SBII why 25 now want to vote repeal it?

Citizen Matthew Thomas went over in detail the types of town voting systems so that the voting body could have a better understanding of how to vote on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Citizen Joe Delahunty asked if we become a coop with Sanborn, will we have to vote SBII like they do?

Legal Counsel Gordan Graham stated that we would vote the Sanborn District way for the grades we have a coop with. If we have a K-8 school, we would vote the way our town has it set up.

Member Lisa Begley stated that although SBII allowed her to vote by absentee ballot, she could not attend the deliberative session so SBII does not help her how to decide to vote.

Representative Dodge stated that it is a problem that no one attends the deliberative session but it does allow people the privacy of voting in a voting booth.

Moderator Scribner indicated that voting for Article 7 would take place on March 8, 2005.

***ARTICLE 8. To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.***

Chairman Dreyer addressed the body concerning a possible future land acquisition. The yellow modular next to the school is in the process of being put on the market at fair market value. A Special School District Meeting may need to be called but approval for a special meeting would need to be approved by a judge.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Peg Pinkham and seconded by Member Chris Kenneway. *With no further transactions to come before the voting body, the meeting was officially closed.*

**Respectfully Submitted By: Kathi Picone, Fremont School Board District Clerk**